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June 6, 2022

The Honorable Jose Medina
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 6210
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 1141 (Limón) Public postsecondary education: exemption from payment of nonresident tuition. — SUPPORT

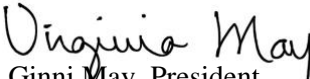
Dear Chair Medina,

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is pleased to **SUPPORT** Senate Bill 1141, which would expand college attainment opportunities for more undocumented students. Over the last two decades, California has ushered in historic policies that have enabled eligible undocumented students to attend college and afford tuition, but existing law still keeps many students from accessing the benefits that these policies intended to provide. We urge your support of SB 1141, which rectifies this wrong.

Signed into law in 2001, AB 540 (Firebaugh) opened the doors to higher education for thousands of undocumented students by removing the burden of out-of-state tuition at California's public colleges and universities. But over the past 20 years, state demographics, and the students enrolled in our postsecondary institutions, has changed. This requires us to take a new look at policies that support students in their pursuit of a college education, including immigrant adult students. SB 68 (Lara, 2017) expanded the AB 540 pathway to include non-traditional students starting directly in college or adult schools. However, many community college undocumented students cannot easily access the benefits of the nonresident tuition exemption because they are required take an unnecessary year of noncredit courses just to meet eligibility, delaying their transfer and career plans.

SB 1141 aims to expand eligibility to more undocumented community college adult students so they can afford the high cost of tuition when they transfer to California's four-year universities. This bill will not only help more students but it will, in turn, help our local and state economies by creating more degree earners. We thank you for your leadership on this vitally important issue and respectfully request for your support on this measure.

Sincerely,


Ginni May, President

cc: Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee
Senator Monique Limón